



**VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 12-242**

**ISSUED: June 6, 1997**

**SUBJECT:** Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, § 1926.55; Amendments

**A. Purpose.**

This directive transmits to field personnel two amendments to the above-referenced standard. This Directive transmits to field personnel two amendments to the Air Contaminants Standard, § 1910.1000. The first amendment results from the final regulation concerning the Occupational Exposure to 1,3-Butadiene, § 1910.1051 (61 FR 56746, November 4, 1997). The second amendment results from the final regulation concerning the Occupational Exposure to Methylene Chloride, § 1910.1052 (62 FR 1496, January 10, 1997).

*This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.*

**B. Scope.**

This directive applies to all VOSH personnel, and specifically to Occupational Safety Compliance and Cooperative Programs personnel.

**C. Action.**

The Deputy Commissioner, Directors and Managers shall assure that field personnel understand and comply with the provisions of this standard.

**D. Effective Date.**

July 15, 1997

**E. Expiration Date.**

Not Applicable.

**F. Background.**

The basis for the first amendment to Appendix A of Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, § 1926.55, was the promulgation of federal OSHA's new final rule on 1,3-Butadiene (BD), General Industry, § 1910.1051, which was published on November 4, 1996. This standard reduced the permissible exposure limit (PEL) from concentrations up to 1,000 parts 1,3-Butadiene per million parts of air (1,000) as an

eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) to an 8-hour TWA of 1 ppm and a short term exposure limit (STEL) of 5 ppm for 15 minutes.

The second amendment to Appendix A of § 1926.55 was a result of the promulgation of federal OSHA's final rule for the Occupational Exposure to Methylene Chloride (MC), § 1910.1052, which was published on January 10, 1997. This final rule reduced the existing eight-hour TWA PEL from 500 parts MC per million parts (ppm) and reduced the existing short-term exposure limit from 2,000 ppm (measured over 5 minutes in any 2 hour period) to 125 ppm, measured as a 15-minute TWA.

**G. Summary.**

In the first amendment, Appendix A of § 1926.55 was revised to reflect changes resulting from the final rule for the Occupational Exposure to 1,3-Butadiene (BD), § 1910.1051. Among the changes were references to the standard for Occupational Exposure to 1,3-Butadiene, Construction Industry, § 1910.1051, and to the standard for Special Provisions for Air Contaminants, § 1910.19.

In the second amendment, the entry for Methylene Chloride was removed and replaced with the following entry in the substance column: "Methylene chloride: see § 1910.1052."

Theron J. Bell  
Commissioner

E-Attachments: 61 FR 56746 (November 4, 1996)

[http://www.osha.gov/FedReg\\_osha\\_pdf/FED19950802.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_osha_pdf/FED19950802.pdf)

62 FR 1496 (January 10, 1997)

Distribution: Commissioner of Labor and Industry  
Deputy Commissioner  
Directors and Managers  
Compliance Staffs  
Cooperative Programs Staff  
Legal Support Staff  
OSHA Regional Administrator, Region III

# **GASES, VAPORS, FUMES, DUSTS, AND MISTS, § 1926.55; AMENDMENTS**

As Adopted by the  
Safety and Health Codes Board

Date: April 7, 1997



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective Date: July 15, 1997

16 VAC 25-175-1926.55, Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, § 1926.55

When the regulations, as set forth in the amendments to Appendix A of the standard for Gases, Vapors, Fumes, Dusts, and Mists, § 1926.55, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

VOSH Equivalent

29 CFR

VOSH Standard

Assistant Secretary

Commissioner of Labor and Industry

Agency

Department

February 3, 1997

July 15, 1997

April 10, 1997

July 15, 1997